

what he might do. No. 1, invent a new disease that had never been heard of before for which there is no vaccine and no cure, that pronounces a death sentence. No. 2, think of a way to transmit that disease that involves the most powerfully reliable human impulse, which is sexual activity. And, No. 3, introduce that disease into countries that are the poorest in the world and have almost no health structure to deal with the disease and in which the discussion of sexual activity is taboo.

That is exactly what has happened with HIV/AIDS. As I look back on those four countries we saw—South Africa, Mozambique, Botswana, and Namibia—these are four countries, with a little exception for Botswana, where 30 years ago they were under some kind of colonial rule. Then the people who are in power in the government today fought against that rule for their freedom, they were guerrillas and they were at war. Then typically there was a civil war to decide who of the winners would govern. And now they are in charge in all four of those countries. They are doing well, in terms of their governance. They are building their democracy very well. And the governance is something they can be proud of.

But all of a sudden out of left field comes this AIDS, just as they are reaching their freedom and just as they are in charge. We saw the wife of Nelson Mandela, Graca Machel, who said to us: It took us aback. We weren't prepared. We weren't ready for it.

It seems like a cruel, terrible trick to play on people who for 30 years have struggled to gain their freedom and find themselves in charge of their own destiny.

Finally, I think we saw a good deal of hope. We saw leaders who, in spite of the terrible odds they face, are committed to fighting it. We saw people from all over the world, really, who were there, volunteering their help. We saw faith-based organizations holding hands, taking care of orphans, finding patients.

My sense of Africa is that for a long time it has generally been ignored by our country. Presidents have sometimes gone but only as an afterthought. I suspect Africa presents such challenges today, not just with HIV/AIDS but in other ways, that it will begin to attract some of the brightest, most intelligent people in the world, many of them Africans who have left to go to other parts of the world, and I believe they will come home.

I saw this morning on C-SPAN the discussion about Ghana and the energy minister who was born in Ghana and was educated in Minnesota. He was the managing partner of Deloitte and Touche for all of Africa, and he decided to go back to Ghana and help build that country.

America was built that way, by people who saw great challenge here and came to help build the country. I suspect Africa may be that sort of challenge. I am glad our President has de-

voted himself in such a strong way to it. I hope he continues that over the next several years. I believe if he does, when he goes back to Crawford, TX at the end of 8 years, it will be one of the great accomplishments of his administration.

I hope the Senate continues to put partisanship aside and to support the \$15 billion and do it in an orderly way. I commend our leader for his insistence on it. I was privileged to be a part of the delegation that went for 2 weeks and it will certainly redouble my interest and attention to our responsibilities to the people of Africa.

I thank the Senate for giving me the opportunity to present this.

PAUL WELLSTONE VETERANS HOSPITAL

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I am pleased to cosponsor legislation to name the Veterans Administration hospital in Minneapolis, MN, after the late Senator Paul Wellstone. It would be a great tribute to my departed friend and colleague, who worked tirelessly to improve the lives of veterans throughout Minnesota and across our Nation.

During the August recess, I met with the leaders of major veterans' organizations in Minnesota. Several have formally expressed their support for bestowing this honor on Senator Wellstone. Others, while not taking official positions, are now aware of the legislation and our intentions to proceed with it. So, I believe that the path is clear in Minnesota for this legislation to be enacted with very broad support.

Senator Wellstone served for seven years on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, where he fought tirelessly for more generous benefits and expanded services, including health care, for the men and women who served our Nation with great courage and dedication, and who now deserve far better than many are receiving or not receiving. In addition, he and his dedicated staff enabled countless veterans individually to receive benefits, medical care, and other services which were wrongly denied them. While living, and after his tragic death last year, Senator Wellstone has been a hero to many thousands of veterans throughout Minnesota and across our Nation. Many of them have provided the impetus and support for this legislation.

It is my hope that this measure might receive swift and favorable consideration by the Senate, and that it then be sent to the House for its concurrence and to the President for his signature, prior to the first anniversary of Senator Wellstone's death.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Sen-

ator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in Washington, DC. On August 21, 2003, a transgendered woman was murdered. Her nude body was found about 2 a.m. in a wooded area near Malcolm X Avenue and 2nd Street, SE.

The woman, identified by friends as Emonie Kiera Spaulding, 25, was the second transgendered woman to die of gunshot wounds and the third to be shot in the District during a 5-day period. The D.C. police department have arrested a suspect.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man from Mitchell, IN. Army Specialist Ronald "Ronnie" Allen, Jr., 22 years old, was killed near Balad on August 25, 2003 when the Army unit he was riding in was struck by another vehicle. Ronnie joined the Army with his entire life before him. He chose to risk everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Ronnie was the 14th Hoosier soldier to be killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He leaves behind his mother, Jyl Harrison, and his stepfather, Derek Harrison, and their children Andrea, Nathan and Eric. Today, I join Ronnie's family, his friends, and the entire Mitchell community in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over his death, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is this courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Ronnie, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Ronald Allen, Jr. told his family he was proud to be serving his country in Iraq because he felt like he could make a real difference there. He told them he was proud to be a soldier and that he loved his country. Today, his family remembers him as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while serving his country.

Ronald dreamed of joining the military as a young man and even early-enlisted in the Army during his junior year of high school. Two weeks after he graduated from Mitchell High School